

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 CU-02 /029 W

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R 140951Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

INFO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 9577

CINCPAC HONOLULU

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CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION BANGKOK ON 14 AUG, REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO:

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CHIANG MAI 0198

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, THI

SUBJECT: STUDENT UNREST IN CHIANG MAI

REF: CHIANG MAI 0196

1. CONSULATE HAS JUST LEARNED THAT CM UNIV HAS DECIDED TO CLOSE FOR TEN DAY COOLING OFF PERIOD FOLLOWING VOTE BY FACULTY OF HUMANITIES TO SUSPEND CLASSES "INDEFINITELY" IN PROTEST AGAINST LAMPHUN FARMER/STUDENT ARRESTS. UNIV OFFICIALS HOPE SCHOOL CLOSURE WILL PREVENT CLASHES BETWEEN ANTI AND PRO DEMONSTRATION SUPPORTERS. DEMONSTRATION AT SALA KLANG CONTINUES WITH CROWDS VARYING BETWEEN 100 AND 250 PARTICIPANTS. SUPPORT FOR PROTEST WAS BOOSTED BY ARRIVAL SEVERAL BUSLOADS OF THAMMASAT UNIV STUDENTS ON AUG 12. PROTESTERS HAVE ADDED TO DEMANDS THE RELEASE OF MURDER SUSPECT ARRESTED FOR INTA KILLING. STUDENTS BELIEVE HIM INNOCENT AND PART OF GOVT COVER-
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UP.

2. FIGHTING BETWEEN PHYSICAL EDUCATION COLLEGE AND CM
TECHNICAL SCHOOL WAS NOT RELATED TO FARMERS' ISSUES. BIG
FRACAS AT STADIUM WHICH RESULTED IN TWO DEATHS AND
RECEIVED FRONT PAGE ATTENTION IN NATIONAL NEWSPAPERS HAS
SERVED, HOWEVER, TO FURTHER ALIENATE STUDENTS FROM LOCAL
POPULACE. STADIUM INCIDENT WAS PRECEDED BY SEVERAL DAYS
OF MINOR STREET BATTLES BETWEEN VARIOUS RIVAL SECONDARY
SCHOOLS, AND OFFICIALS ARE CONCERNED THAT MORE SCHOOLS
WILL CHOOSE UP SIDES AND JOIN IN THE FRAY. BOTH CM
TECHNICAL SCHOOL AND THE PHYSICAL EDUCATION COLLEGE HAVE
BEEN ORDERED CLOSED UNTIL AUG 18, AND AMPHOE EDUCATION
OFFICER IS HOLDING MEETING TODAY WITH OWNERS OF PRIVATE
SCHOOLS URGING CALM ON VARIOUS CAMPUSES. STREET FIGHTING
AMONG RIVAL SCHOOLS SIMILAR TO THAT EXPERIENCED IN
BANGKOK IS A NEW PHENOMENON IN CHIANG MAI AND ONE WHICH
LOCAL CITIZENS ARE PRESSURING GOVT TO STOP.

HARBIN

UNQUOTE

WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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